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that most important asset of a historian, knowledge, not merely of facts, dates, places and events, but of the men in his period, which adds incalculably to the value and interest of his work. The light thrown on the character of the viceroys and their activities is thus very great, and the motives of the great number of participants in the struggle are developed generally by simple statement of their own words and deeds. In short, Mr. Bagwell has not merely produced the best history of Ireland during this period, but the only one in its class. And he has laid a heavy debt of gratitude on reader and scholar alike for a contribution of the highest value in a field at once one of the most difficult and important in modern history.

W. C. ABBOTT.

Sir George Mackenzie, King's Advocate, of Rosehaugh: his Life and Times, 1636(?)–1691. By ANDREW LANG. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1909. Pp. xii, 347.)

SOME seven years ago Mr. Francis Watt published in his *Terrors of the Law* a brilliant, vivid portrait of "the Bluidy Advocate Mackenzie". That little sketch, not mentioned, it happens, by the present author, placed the king's prosecutor abominated of the Covenanters in a more favorable light than he is commonly regarded. Mr. Lang now offers us an exhaustive study of his life and times which is an apology, though a qualified one, not only for the man but for the government which he represented. The author's thesis is that "in the education of Scotland the Restoration was a bitter but necessary movement"; that, granted Charles's agents were cruel and unscrupulous, they succeeded in breaking down the intolerable claims of the extreme Presbyterians, a task which gentler means and more worthy men would never have accomplished. Mackenzie, however, while with them, was in many respects not of them. He was "a scholar, 'the flower of the wits of Scotland', an erudite and eloquent pleader, a writer who touched on many themes,—morals, religion, heraldry, history, jurisprudence,—the author of perhaps the first novel written on Scottish soil", he was "a thoroughly modern man, one of ourselves set in society and political environment unlike ours, and perverted by his surroundings", and "the times brought to the surface of his nature elements which, in a more settled age, would have laid dormant and unsuspected by himself." He was the servant of his master and "he adopted . . . the policy of repression, when . . . the policy of concession was surrounded by insuperable difficulties." His career is traced in chronological detail in connection with the events of the period and some space is devoted to his writings.

Mr. Lang shows his usual minute and varied learning, and brightens the gloomy and stormy sketches over which he passes with occasional flashes of wit. New light is thrown on old problems; for instance, new

material is marshalled (pp. 32 ff.) to strengthen the case against the Marquis of Argyle, executed in 1661, and (pp. 204 ff.) it is shown as never before how much clan animosity had to do with the ruin of Argyle's son, the ninth earl, in 1681, though Mr. Lang seems to contradict himself (pp. 216 and 233) in trying to explain the attitude of the Duke of York. If one is particular about "cheese-parings" he cites reasons for putting the date of Mackenzie's birth two years later than the traditional 1636. Yet, while it has many merits, the book is hard reading. We are led through labyrinths of detail, events are alluded to rather than described, and, to use the author's own words in another connection, "his characters are as numerous as the grains on the ribbed sea sands." More than one point of controversy is treated in a perplexing or inclusive fashion (*cf. e. g.*, pp. 83 and 325), and the hero is at times obscured in a Scotch mist.

As to details, Mr. Lang seems to minimize the political importance of the Church of Rome in pre-Reformation Scotland (pp. 11-12); 1660 as the date for the defeat at Rullion Green is a misprint for 1666 (p. 84); White Hall (p. 239) is commonly written as one word; it is not made clear whether Lockhart's appointment as King's Advocate was intended to be temporary, or whether Dalrymple crowded him out (pp. 290-292). We must hope that it is a typographical error which makes a Scotchman err in a scriptural name. It was Uzzah not Uzziah who came to grief for touching the Ark (p. 174). All in all, however, we should be grateful to Mr. Lang for his generally sane attitude and for scholarly findings in a period where so much has been distorted by political and theological prejudice.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

Le Secret du Régent et la Politique de l'Abbé Dubois (Triple et Quadruple Alliances), 1716-1718. Par ÉMILE BOURGEOIS, Professeur à l'Université de Paris. [La Diplomatie Secrète au XVIII^e Siècle, ses Débuts.] (Paris: Armand Colin. 1909. Pp. xxxvi, 384.)

THIS volume is the first in a series of three dealing with *La Diplomatie Secrète au XVIII^e Siècle*. From its extensive use of new documents, its wide knowledge of the literature, its keen and discriminating judgments, and its clear and vivid narration, it is a work worthy of the reputation of Professor Bourgeois and of the Prix du Budget awarded by the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques. Its merits are appreciatively but judiciously discussed in an opinion rendered by Sorel, with the award, which is printed in the preface.

The carefully classified bibliography contains an exhaustive list of the materials in French. The author's researches in the archives of other European countries are avowedly less extensive. With respect to England, for instance, except the *Mémoires de Cellamare* no unprinted